

DK-US040366

JAP20 Rec'd PCT/PTO 30 MAY 2006

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Tadashi SAO et al.

Serial No New-Nat'l phase of  
PCT/JP2005/009451

International filing date: May 24, 2005

For: BRANCHING PIPE JOINT AND  
AN AIR CONDITIONER PROVIDED  
THEREWITH (As Amended)**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

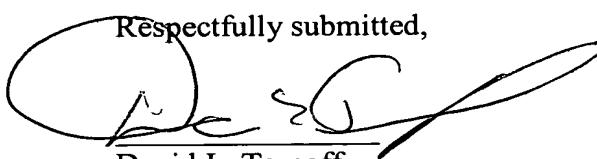
In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the references listed on the attached PTO-1449-Form to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application.

Japanese Utility Model Publication No. 04-97263 appears to disclose a refrigerant flow diverter having a bypass pipe.

Japanese Laid Open Publication No. 2752194 appears to disclose an air conditioner unit with switching valves.

Japanese 1998 Cooling and Heating Handbook, Air Conditioning Volume, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd. discloses information relating to installation cooling system. This publication discloses various Y-shaped branch pipes.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
  
 David L. Tarnoff  
 Reg. No. 32,383

GLOBAL IP COUNSELORS, LLP  
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 Washington, DC 20036  
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 Dated: 5-30-06

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**Substitute for form 1449A/PTO**

## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

*(use as many sheets as necessary)*

## Shee

of 1

**Attorney Docket Number**

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	PC11U20055009451
Filing Date	International Date of May 24, 2005
First Named Inventor	Tadashi SAO
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	DK1-HSC-122882

Key Docket Number

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## **U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. <sup>1</sup>	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T <sup>2</sup>
		Country Code <sup>3</sup> - Number <sup>4</sup> - Kind Code <sup>5</sup> (if known)				
		JP-04-97263-U	08-24-1992	Nishinaka		No
		JP-2752194 B2	02-27-1998	Nagae		No
		JP-11-72189-A	03-16-1999	Furuta		Yes
		JP-11-304297-A	11-05-1999	Suehiro et al.		Yes
		JP-2000-161807-A	06-16-2000	Yoshii		Yes
		JP-2003-35469-A	02-07-2003	Takeda		Yes

**Examiner Signature** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date Considered** \_\_\_\_\_

**EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

<sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04.

<sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

**Burden Hour Statement:** This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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PTO/SB/08A (08-00)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031

Approved for use 05/22/2011. 1015-0035. GPO 2011-0001

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO		Complete if Known 000000000000	
<b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>			
<i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>			
Sheet	2	of	2
		Attorney Docket Number	DK-US040366
Application Number Filing Date First Named Inventor Group Art Unit Examiner Name			
PCT/JP2005/009451 International Date of May 24, 2005 Tadashi SAO  			

## OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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**\*EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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